

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 AF-06 /091 W

----- 026612

R 051451Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4208

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT LE PLO

SUBJECT: LEBANESE-FEDAYEEN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 5611

1. DEPT WILL HAVE NOTED FBIS ITEMS (E.G., JN 022125) OVER PAST WEEKEND REPORTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRIMIN SOLH AND PLO LEADERS TO RE-ESTABLISH "JOINT LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE" FOR PURPOSE OF SOLVING "URGENT PROBLEMS" EXISTING "BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES." (SIMILAR COMMITTEE WAS ORGANIZED AND HELD DESULTORY, LARGELY UNPRODUCTIVE  
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SESSIONS IN AFTERMATH OF MAY 1973 HOSTILITIES). IN AN-

NOUNCING THIS DEVELOPMENT, SOLH CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT NO "DIFFERENCES" ACTUALLY EXIST AND THAT GOL-FEDAYEEN RELATIONS ARE "EXCELLENT." COMMENT: WE REGARD THIS HOWLING NON-SEQUITUR AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT PRIMIN, DESPITE HIS REPEATED EFFORTS TO PACIFY PUBLIC OPINION AND DEPICT HIMSELF AS BEING AT CENTER OF MEANINGFUL MOVES TO IMPROVE GOL-FEDAYEEN RELATIONS, IS STILL IN POSITION OF MAN CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO STEAMROLLERS.

2. JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON MAY 3, WITH GOL REPRESENTED BY SOLH, DIRGEN INTERNAL SECURITY HISHAM SHAAR, PUBLIC SECURITY CHIEF COL. ANTOINE DAHDAH, ARMY LIAISON OFFICER TO PLO COL. DEEB KAMAL, AND ARMY G-2 REP COL. NASR ABBOD. PLO WAS REPRESENTED BY SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN AND FATAH'S ABU HASSAN, ABU SALEH AND TEWFIQ SAFADI. FOLLOWING MEETING SOLH ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN NUMBER OF "PRACTICAL STEPS" TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF NEW CLASHES SIMILAR TO RECENT PHALANGIST-FEDAYEEN FIGHTING, BUT HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED GIVING ANY DETAILS OF WHAT THOSE STEPS ENTAIL. MUHSEN CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS HAVING BEEN "EXTREMELY FRANK," WITH BOTH SIDES DISPLAYING DESIRE TO SEE CALM RESTORED. HIS REMARKS WERE AMPLIFIED BY PLO PLANNING CHIEF NABIL SHAATH IN LONG AN NAHAR INTERVIEW MAY 4, IN WHICH SHAATH CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT PLO HAS ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN LEBANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR OF UPSETTING POLITICAL BALANCE IN LEBANON, AND INSISTED FEDAYEEN--FAR FROM BEING ALLIED WITH ANY PARTICULAR LEBANESE POLITICAL OR CONFESSIONAL FACTION--ARE ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH ALL.

3. IN MEANTIME, IMAM MUSA SADR'S "COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC PACIFICATION," FORMED AS NOTED REFTEL TO ACT AS CATALYST IN BRINGING ABOUT BETTER MODUS VIVENDI BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN, APPARENTLY HAS TERMINATED ITS EFFORTS. IN STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 3, PACIFICATION COMMITTEE UNDERLINED NEED FOR "STRONG AUTHORITY" IN LEBANON AND WELCOMED REVIVAL OF JOINT LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE. STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT BEST WAY TO REGULATE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS IN FUTURE WAS TO IMPLEMENT ALREADY EXISTING AGREEMENTS (WE PRESUME THIS IS REFERENCE TO MORIBUND 1969  
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CAIRO AGREEMENT), ADDING THAT PACIFICATION COMMITTEE'S SOUNDINGS HAD REVEALED THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ARE WILLING TO RESPECT SUCH AGREEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WE GATHER, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FULLY CONFIRMED, THAT IMAM SADR'S COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY NEW AND UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTABLE "PRINCIPLES" FOR GOVERNING FUTURE LEBANESE-PAL-

ESTINIAN RELATIONS AND WAS THUS FORCED TO FALL BACK ON  
CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OLD ONES. LATTER  
"PRINCIPLES," AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, LONG AGO  
PROVED ESSENTIALLY UNWORKABLE FOR VARIETY OF REASONS AND  
IN ANY CASE HAVE BECOME IRRELEVANT IN MOST RESPECTS  
TO CONDITIONS CURRENTLY EXISTING HERE. WE THEREFORE  
CONTINUE TO FORESEE SITUATION IN WHICH UNDERLYING TENSIONS  
AND GRIEVANCES BETWEEN FEDAYEEN, PHALANGE AND OTHER  
PARTISAN LOCAL GROUPS WILL PERSIST. ALTHOUGH THEY PROBABLY  
WILL BE MUTED FOR TIME BEING BY "JOINT COMMITTEE" MEETINGS  
AND CONCILIATORY JAW-BONING BY GOL AND PLO LEADERS,  
PROBLEMS WHICH SPARKED RECENT CLASHES CAN EASILY RE-  
SURFACE IN MORE ACUTE FORM AND WITH MORE DEFASTATING  
RESULTS IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMITTEES  
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**Draft Date:** 05 MAY 1975  
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